

Message Text

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11

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 EB-11 COME-00 AGR-20 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01

PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-15 OMB-01 RSR-01 AID-20 /136 W

----- 006402

R 040449Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5367

INFO AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

UNCLAS BANGKOK 12029

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS EAGR, TH, EAID.

SUBJ: DOMESTIC RICE PROBLEMS

REF: BANGKOK 11910

1. LOCAL ENGLISH LANGUAGE PRESS REPORTED AUGUST 4 THAT CABINET ON AUGUST 3 GRANTED EXTRAORDINARY POWERS TO DEAL WHICH DEMESTIC REICE CRISIS UNDER ARTICLE 17 OF INTERIM CONSTITUTION TO BOARD OF INSPECTION AND FOLLOW-UP OF GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS (BIFGO) HEADED BY GNERAL THONGCHERM SANG-HAVANICH AND WITH COL. NARONG KITTIKACHORN AS DEP. SEC-GNE. THONGCHERM ACCORDING TO SAME COURCES HAS BEEN DELEGATED SOLE ENFORMCMENT AUTHORITY FOR THE VARIOUS RICE AND ANTI-ROFITEERING LAWS. HERETOFORE, THE ABSOLUTE POWERS CONTAINED IN ARTICLE 17 HAD BEEN RESERVED TO THE PRIME MINISTER.

2. PRESS ALSO REPORTED THAT CABINET ACTION FOLLOWED SEIZURE BY BIFGO OVER PAST FOUR DAYS OF 134,000 TONS OF RICE IN THE BANGKOK AREA. FURTHER STRENGTHENING OF BIFGO'S ROLE IN DEALING WITH RICE CRISIS EVIDENT FROM AUTHORIZATION TO BIFGO TO ACT JOINTLY WITH MINISTRY OF COMMERCE IN IS-SUING EXPORT LICENSES FOR RICE. PRESS HAS ALSO REPORTED

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DENIAL BY COMMERCE MINISTER PRASIT KANCHANAWAT

OF NEWSPAPER CHARGES THAT HE IS PART OWNER OF SOME OF
COMPANIES HOARDING RICE.
UNGER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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